

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached replacement drawing sheet includes changes to FIG. 7 as described in the "Remarks" section of this amendment. This attached sheet replaces the originally filed sheet containing FIG. 7.

Attachment: Replacement sheet containing FIG. 7

REMARKS

The statement by the Examiner that claims 4-6, 8-11 and 13 contain allowable subject matter is gratefully acknowledged by the Applicant.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 9 and 10 have been amended. Claims 3, 4, 7, 8 and 14 have been canceled to further the prosecution of the application. Claim 15 has been newly added. No new matter has been included. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9-13 and 15 are now pending in this application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this application and in other applications.

The drawings stand objected as to failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84 (p)(5) for including element 722 in FIG. 7, which is not described in the specification. Applicant has attached a corrected replacement drawing sheet amending FIG. 7 to remove the label "722" in accordance with the present specification. The amendment to FIG. 7 addresses the concerns raised in the Office Action. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tsang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,900,623)("Tsang"). Claim 14 has been canceled and thus, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 7 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsang in view of Fujikura (U.S. Patent No. 5,949,271). Claims 4-6, 8-11 and 13 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are otherwise allowable. The rejection and objection are respectfully traversed.

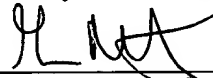
Claim 1 has been amended such that claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form including the limitations of its base and intervening claims. According to the Office Action, claim 1 is now allowable. Applicants respectfully

submit that claims 2, 5, 6 and 10-13 depend from claim 1 and are allowable along with claim 1. Claim 15 recites the allowable subject matter of claim 8 and is allowable for at least the reasons set forth in the Office Action. Claim 9 depends from claim 15 and is allowable along with claim 15. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection and objection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Thomas J. D'Amico

Registration No.: 28,371

Gianni Minutoli

Registration No.: 41,198

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN &
OSHINSKY LLP

2101 L Street NW

Washington, DC 20037-1526

(202) 785-9700

Attorneys for Applicant

Attachments